



***Town of Tyngsborough
Planning Board***
25 Bryants Lane,
Tyngsborough, Massachusetts 01879-1003
Office: (978) 649-2300 ext. 115

MINUTES
October 21, 2010
APPROVED

Attachments:

1. Meeting Agenda

Members Present: Steve Nocco, Chairman
Tom Delmore, Vice Chairman
Bill Gramer
Steve O'Neill
Pamela Berman, Administrative Assistant

Members Absent: Jim Miller
Jesse Johnson

7:00pm - Meeting called to order by Chairman S. Nocco

Draft Wind & Solar Energy Conversion System Regulations – Joint meeting with the Energy and Environmental Affairs Committee

Members of the Energy and Environmental Affairs Committee (EEAC) met with the Planning Board to discuss the feasibility of regulating wind and solar energy conversion systems. Currently there are no regulations or permit requirements for these types of systems, however, with the green community designation; the “as-of-right” siting enables these systems to be built. T. Delmore, felt that wind and solar conversion systems should not be left to the State to regulate, there should be something in place at the Town level. S. O'Neill noted that private homeowners should still be able to have some sort of wind or solar conversion system on a smaller scale that wouldn't require a huge permitting process. He went on to say that there are several different technologies that can be used by the homeowner that are smaller and less noisy. T. Delmore commented that commercial/industrial zoned areas should be allowed as well but perhaps include location, capacity, and height restrictions that trigger a Special Permit requirement. The general consensus was that a Special Permit from the Planning Board be required for residential and commercial wind turbines. The language can be added to the existing Zoning Bylaws and be updated in the Table of Uses. It was noted that by law, homeowners can generate up to 2 megawatts of energy for their own use or to sell back to the grid.

With regards to solar energy, the by-law simply needs to address the “as-of-right” siting. In addition, the Planning Board should have a site plan review for all commercial solar panel projects. E. Coughlin said that she would talk to NMCOG about writing the new by-law for inclusion into the current Zoning Regulations. In addition, B. Gramer said that he would research other towns in Massachusetts that currently have a wind and solar energy conversion system by-law in place.

Administrative

S. O’Neill: Motion to approve the minutes from October 7, 2010

T. Delmore: 2nd the motion

In Favor: 4 Opposed: 0 Absent: 1

Passes: 4-0-1

8:15pm

S. O’Neill: Motion to adjourn

T. Delmore: 2nd the motion

In Favor: 4 Opposed: 0 Absent: 1

Passes: 4-0-1

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Pamela Berman
Planning Board Administrative Assistant